



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 13, 2007

CONTACT: KELLY M. BROCKMAN
MAGGIE THROCKMORTON
615.741.6007 (OFFICE)

NEW LAW FOR PURCHASING FIREWORKS GOES INTO EFFECT JULY 1

Nashville, TN.-Teenagers wishing to purchase consumer fireworks must be at least sixteen years old beginning July 1, 2007. Previously, the law allowed those as young as ten to purchase fireworks. Teens sixteen and seventeen years old must additionally provide a state-issued photo ID at the time of purchase. A violation of the law could result in a fine to the retailer of up to \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and up to \$500 for all subsequent offenses.

The law is intended to reduce the number of injuries to children caused by improper use of fireworks. According to a nationwide study provided by the National Fire Protection Association, children ages 5-9 face the highest risk of injury from fireworks. In 2004, 55% of people injured by fireworks were under the age of 20, with 40% of the injuries incurred by those under age 15.

State Fire Marshal, Leslie A. Newman, encourages all Tennesseans to attend professional fireworks displays as an alternative to purchasing their own. "Regardless of your age, displays performed by trained professionals are regulated more closely and follow national safety standards. By avoiding consumer fireworks the risk of personal injury, including burns and damage to fingers, face, and eyes, is greatly reduced."

More information about fireworks safety and fire prevention is available on the web at <http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/index.html>.

###

DAVY CROCKETT TOWER, 5TH FLOOR
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2241